

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice to the subject matter therein and add the following claims 25-46:

1.-24. (Cancelled)

1        25. (New) A method comprising:  
2 identifying a set of systems of a plurality of systems, wherein  
3            each system in the set of systems meets a requirement for hosting a first application of  
4                a plurality of applications, and  
5                the systems form at least one cluster; and  
6 when the set of systems is empty,  
7                using a respective priority for each of the applications for identifying a resource to  
8                free, wherein  
9                the resource is one of a plurality of resources, and  
10              each resource is associated with at least one of the systems.

1        26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein  
2 the identifying the resource further comprises  
3                using a respective capacity for each of the systems for identifying the resource.

1        27. (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:  
2 freeing the resource such that an associated system of the systems meets the requirement for  
3                hosting the first application.

1        28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
2 starting the first application on the associated system.

1        29. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein  
2 the freeing the resource comprises stopping a second application that is using the resource,  
3                wherein the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective  
4                priority of the first application.

1        30. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein  
2 the freeing the resource comprises moving a second application that is using the resource to a  
3                second system of the systems, wherein

4           the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the  
5           first application.

1           31.    (New) The method of claim 25 further comprising:  
2       determining that the first application is to be started.

1           32.    (New) The method of claim 31 wherein  
2       the determining that the first application is to be started comprises  
3       detecting that the first application failed.

1           33.    (New) The method of claim 31 wherein  
2       the determining that the first application is to be started comprises  
3       comparing a respective priority of the first application with each of a set of respective  
4       priorities for a set of the applications running on the systems, and  
5       determining that the first application is to be started when the respective priority of  
6       the first application is higher than one of the set of respective priorities for the  
7       set of applications running on the systems.

1           34.    (New) The method of claim 25 wherein  
2       the identifying the set of systems comprises  
3       including a selected system in the set of systems when the selected system meets a  
4       prerequisite for the first application.

1           35.    (New) The method of claim 25 wherein  
2       the identifying the set of systems comprises  
3       including a selected system in the set of systems when the first application does not  
4       exceed a limit for the selected system.

1           36.    (New) An apparatus comprising:  
2       an identifying module to identify a set of systems of a plurality of systems, wherein  
3       each system in the set of systems meets a requirement for hosting a first application of  
4       a plurality of applications, and  
5       the systems form at least one cluster; and  
6       a priority module to use a respective priority for each of the applications for  
7       identifying a resource to free when the set of systems is empty, wherein  
8       the resource is one of a plurality of resources, and

9                   each resource is associated with at least one of the systems.

1       37.    (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein  
2   the priority module further uses a respective capacity for each of the systems for identifying  
3   the resource.

1       38.    (New) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:  
2   a freeing module to free the resource such that an associated system of the systems meets the  
3   requirement for hosting the first application.

1       39.    (New) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising:  
2   a starting module to start the first application on the associated system.

1       40.    (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein  
2   the freeing module comprises a stopping module to stop a second application that is using the  
3   resource, wherein  
4   the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority of the  
5   first application.

1       41.    (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein  
2   the freeing module comprises  
3       a moving module to move a second application that is using the resource to a second  
4       system of the systems, wherein  
5       the second application has a lower respective priority than a respective priority  
6       of the first application.

1       42.    (New) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:  
2   a determining module to determine that the first application is to be started.

1       43.    (New) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein  
2   the determining module comprises  
3       a detecting module to detect that the first application failed.

1       44.    (New) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein  
2   the determining module comprises

3       a comparing module to compare a respective priority of the first application with each  
4           of a set of respective priorities for a set of the applications running on the  
5           systems, wherein  
6           the determining module determines that the first application is to be started  
7           when the respective priority of the first application is higher than one  
8           of the set of respective priorities for the set of applications running on  
9           the systems.

1       45. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein  
2       the identifying module comprises  
3           an including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when the  
4           selected system meets a prerequisite for the first application.

1       46. (New) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein  
2       the identifying module comprises  
3           an including module to include a selected system in the set of systems when the first  
4           application does not exceed a limit for the selected system.